

From Real STL News [April 11](#) ·

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF ST. ANN POLICE BEATING SUSPECT

Guest Columnist Submission

“Stop don’t kill him!” a male bystander shouted.

More outcries followed as others gathered and bore witness to St. Ann, and North County Cooperative police beating a man who had obviously already surrendered.

In the parking lot of a bank, he laid on his back, hands up in submission. Police descended upon him, kned him in the face and shattered his glasses. Another officer kicked him twice in the head.

“Stop! We saw you kick him.”

“He’s not resisting,” shouted another bystander.

Realizing there were people watching, including those with cell phones filming, police stopped. They handcuffed the man who was unconscious and carried him away, leaving a crime scene of shattered glasses, a single shoe and pool of the man’s blood on the black pavement.

The incident happened Tuesday afternoon around 5 p.m. at the intersection of Kings Highway and Natural Bridge. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the chase started with a drug investigation in St. Ann. Police were monitoring a drug house, when they saw a vehicle believed to be carrying drugs. St. Ann police pursued the car long past their own jurisdiction. Other departments including Charlack and North County Cooperative joined the pursuit into St. Louis City. St. Louis Police were also on the scene.

The chase ended in a crash at the intersection of Natural Bridge and Kingshighway, when the vehicle, a gold sedan, struck a white car crossing the intersection. “I was just crossing on the light when he hit me,” said a young woman tears streaming down her face. The woman was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital after complaining of leg pain.

After the crash, the suspect ran from the intersection and surrendered in the parking lot. Police, obviously enraged and pumped up from their chase, beat him even as he had his hands up first in surrender and then in an attempt to shield the repeated blows to his face. A St. Louis police officer noting the violence and that people were watching told the other officers to stop.

After the man’s arrest, North County cooperative set up crime scene tape to prevent recording bystanders from getting closer. St. Louis Police stated the chase started at the airport. Several STLPD officers seemed perturbed by another chase instigated by St. Ann Police. They are not alone.

According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch there has been about one St. Ann police chase a week, and a related crash about once every two weeks. In fact, the municipality has a dramatically

higher rate of pursuits and has been known to pursue drivers in a chase for minor offenses like expired plates and speeding. The department serves a population of about 14,000 residents and employs 54 officers, but had more chases last year than the St. Louis County police's 950 officers and nearly as many as the 1,200 officers with the St. Louis Police Department.

St. Ann's police chief, Aaron Jimenez, told the Post-Dispatch he's proud of his department's reputation, saying chases send a message to criminals to stay out of St. Ann.

"We're not going to allow a sense of lawlessness here," he said.

However it seems, based on the actions of St. Ann police officers on Tuesday, the lawlessness of beating a man who already surrendered outside of St. Ann jurisdiction is.





[788788](#)

[807 Comments721](#)